

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING H.R. 1271, THE FAA RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chair of the House Committee on Science's Subcommittee on Technology to introduce the FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Act of 1997. The legislation authorizes the FAA to conduct research, engineering, and development [RE&D] projects and activities that improve the national aviation system by increasing safety, security, capacity, and productivity for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Although the budget for RE&D reflects a relatively small portion of the FAA's total budget, the program plays a critical role in the research and development of new aviation technologies to help meet the increasing aviation demands of the next century. A major challenge facing the FAA today is the modernization of an aging system infrastructure. An infusion of new technology and procedures is essential if air traffic services are to continue to support safe and efficient flight operations of the future.

For fiscal year 1998, the legislation authorizes a slight increase over last year's enacted funding level, from \$208,412,000 to \$217,406,000. The increase is necessary to safeguard sensitive computer and information system data from unauthorized disclosure, to enhance weather research activities recognizing weather as a major contributor to aircraft incidents, to strengthen research activities helping the FAA to meet its goal of reducing aircraft noise 80 percent by the year 2000, and to establish a new undergraduate research grants program. The legislation authorizes \$224,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and \$231,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 to carry out the FAA RE&D program.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this legislation which will assist the FAA in its efforts to increase airspace capacity, reduce inefficiencies, and to improve aviation safety and security. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting the FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1997.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1273

HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Science Foundation Act

of 1997. This 2-year authorization bill lays out a realistic and supportable plan to fund science.

The National Science Foundation [NSF] provides funding to over 19,000 research and education projects in science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 schools, businesses, and other research institutions in all parts of the United States. The Foundation accounts for about 25 percent of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

The President's fiscal year 1998 request for the National Science Foundation [NSF] is \$3.367 billion. While the President's request offers a 3-percent increase over fiscal year 1997, I believe this number serves as a baseline for science funding.

The Research and Related Activities [RR&A] Account serves as the bellweather indicator for basic research at the Foundation. My bill authorizes \$2.563 billion, or a 5.4-percent increase over fiscal year 1997. While I understand we are operating under tough budget times, I firmly believe that the discoveries of next century will be born from our Nation's current investment in basic research. This investment is a must for the United States to remain a world leader well into the next century. I am proud of the work of my subcommittee and the full committee in providing an achievable goal for the RR&A account in fiscal year 1998.

In fiscal year 1999, the bill increases the RR&A account to \$2.740 billion, a 7-percent increase over fiscal year 1998. I believe this is an achievable goal. Over this next year, I intend to make the case to Congress and to the science community that this goal is the right track for basic research funding.

This bill provides for full authorization of the Antarctic Rehabilitation Program. Both within my subcommittee and at the full committee, after numerous committee hearings and oversight activities, we believe this Antarctic Rehabilitation Program is extremely worthwhile. Mr. Norm Augustine stated at our full committee hearing on, "The Future of Antarctic Research," "It's our belief we would not send a ship to sea or a spacecraft to orbit in the condition of the facilities that we have at the pole." Furthermore, the Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, reaffirmed in a letter to the Committee, " * * * it is essential for the United States to maintain an active and influential presence in Antarctica, including the South Pole Station." I believe now is the time to make the commitment to our Nation and scientists.

In the Education and Human Resources Directorate, this bill incorporates the President's request of \$625.5 million, a 1.1-percent increase over fiscal year 1998. As a strong supporter of education, I am planning an aggressive oversight agenda for math and science education this year. Because I believe these programs are important, this bill provides for growth in this program to over \$644 million, in fiscal year 1999.

This bill stresses the need to maintain low overhead and expenses in the salaries and expenses account. Also, in both years, we provide slight increases to the Office of the Inspector General.

In other provisions of the bill, NSF is required to submit a plan to the Congress on the status of present and future construction, repair, and upgrades to our national research facilities.

Understanding that the science community should not be immune to justifying its expenses in these tough budget times, the bill directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake a study to review indirect cost rates.

I want to particularly thank my ranking minority member, Mr. BARCIA, for his efforts on this bill and the bipartisan support he has shown in supporting the National Science Foundation.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional organization, the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. This achievement will be recognized at a celebration to be held the evening of April 12 at the Hi-Hat Caterers in Bayonne.

A quarter century ago, an exceptional group of concerned women recognized a need in the Bayonne community for mental health services. A place was envisioned where not a single person would be denied health services, regardless of his ability to provide payment for these valuable services. Through dedication and a commitment to excellence, the dream became a reality in the form of the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center.

Twenty-five years ago, people with a mental or psychological disability were often shunned by others within their communities. Through the efforts of the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center, this perception has been greatly reversed. In its first year, the center provided almost 300 mental health visits for the residents of the Bayonne community. By 1996, this number had grown to more than 16,000 people availing themselves of the services on a yearly basis. The extraordinarily qualified staff of therapists and psychiatrists at the center offer comprehensive and personalized care covering a full spectrum of psychological illnesses.

Missions as important as that of the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center are never accomplished by one person. Each staff member has played a vital role in serving the

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